

COMFORT, REST AND AMUSEMENT PROVIDED SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT

(By Associated Press.)

FRENCH FRONT, Feb. 25.—The veteran of 1914 who has passed four winters at the battlefield is apt to make ironic remarks about "feathered soldiers" when he hears newly-joined comrades speak of the discomforts of cold weather conditions. At the beginning of the war the fighting men were more than pleased to discover a comparatively dry spot under the trees of a forest or in a drafty stable or barn in which to pass their very rare and short periods of repose.

Now all has been changed and everything possible is done to provide some sort of comfort and distraction for the men when they come down from the front line trenches. It must not be supposed that all the modern aids to human comfort are furnished to the soldier, but his lot is luxurious compared with that during the early months of the war. In every village in the immediate rear of the fighting line out of range of the German guns a town major has been appointed, who makes it his business to know every nook and corner where men and horses can be housed. When a battalion or a regiment marches in, everything is in readiness for its reception. Regimental workshops and offices, stables and kitchen already are arranged and billeting accommodations for officers and men listed in such a way that the soldiers have only to go in and occupy their quarters. Sometimes they are lodged in the cottages, but in general it has been found more convenient to place them in farmhouses and barns, as the hygienic facilities in the country houses are far from modern.

Every available garage and barn has been thoroughly gone over and made water-tight by having its roof covered with tarred paper and its walls made draft-proof by thick crumpled cardboard. Electric light has been installed, every building provided with a stove and washstands. Partitioned off is a compartment where the men may take hot and cold shower baths. In the near-by kitchens every requisite is handy for cooking.

As to the men's personal comfort each of them is given a trestle bed, with straw mattress, known generally as "six-foot feathers," bolster, sleeping sack and blankets. In the vicinity of the villages sports grounds have been enclosed and marked for football games, while numerous plots of land are set apart for truck gardening and generally cultivated by old reservists who do not go into the firing line. The produce is much appreciated by the troops, who, when at the front, have to content themselves with canned vegetables.

In each cantonment a large but has been erected to serve as a recreation and reading and writing room. It is provided with a fairly extensive library and all kinds of indoor games. Every week or so a moving picture performance is given by the army theatre, which also arranges dramatic shows.

Besides these official arrangements for the troops other efforts are made by private bodies to cheer the men between their arduous and perilous periods of trench work. In almost every cantonment a canteen has been established under the auspices of French, American or British women, who serve the men with hot coffee, tea and bouillon and little food delicacies.

During the chilly months from September to May each soldier is given extra supplies of warm clothing comprising three cotton shirts, two pairs of flannellette under garments, two or three pairs of woolen socks, three blankets, one sweater, one scarf and a pair of woolen gloves, and in the Vosges mountains and other sectors where the cold is most severe still more warmer clothing is placed at the disposal of the troops in case of need.

will operate so that it will become necessary neither for the government to take control of war industries nor to commandeer labor for war production. If an entire agreement is not reached officials say both these steps are within the range of possibilities.

Besides strikes, other important subjects to be dealt with include bases for wage determination, price fixing and piece work prices, elimination of restrictions on output and measures to prevent the cutting of piece rate pay, practices to govern dilution of labor, discrimination against union or non-union labor, admission of union agents to plants, methods of adjusting disputes, rights of workers to organize.

The subject of strikes is regarded as perhaps the most important to come before the conference. The government is hopeful that disturbances may be prevented before they take place and is searching for a means of doing away with their causes. Strikes called since the war began have been a large factor in slowing up production of war materials and department of labor reports show they have been more numerous since the war began than at any other period in the country's history.

In the shipyards alone strikes have produced more than 600,000 idle days, which is equivalent in tonnage to more than 75,000 tons of ships. In other war industries they have been nearly as numerous.

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The ten men will name two others to represent in the conference the general public.

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PATRIOTISM AND SELF-SACRIFICE TAUGHT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(By Associated Press.)

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 25.—"Instruction and service, based on the conception of patriotism and personal sacrifice for country" form the basic principles upon which Los Angeles has built a comprehensive living structure to do war work in the public schools. The motive, and the means of realization, were started by Dr. Albert Shields, superintendent of schools, in the words quoted, which are taken from the foreword of an illustrated booklet, made public today, that was devoted to a discussion of what is being done and the reason underlying the work.

The booklet, entitled "The Los Angeles Schools and the War," gives a history of war work from the day America entered the struggle to February 1 and covers a wide range of subjects, including instruction, war training, conservation—both direct

and by increasing supplies—salvage, civilian relief and war finance. All these activities, it is recited, were so arranged that they neither displaced essentials in the study courses existing before the war, nor added to the scholastic burdens of teachers or students. The changes were made by making patriotic elements of existing courses take a major place instead of a subordinate part, and by turning existing classes in science, cookery, nursing and kindred subjects more directly toward the branches of those arts and crafts that would yield the best returns in preparedness.

The work outlined and progressing in the various schools and classes covered increase of food supplies by gardening, practical and theoretical, which were both demonstrated and taught through the grades and in the high schools, with excellent results, according to the

report, in actual course of foodstuffs production by students and in awakening of interest and a better understanding of crop management. What to do with the food when it had been raised was covered by practical courses in cookery, household management, and the dissemination of information through thousands of leaflets, by demonstrations, by camp cookery classes for boys, and by the sale of the "Liberty Cook Book," the net proceeds from the latter being given to the Red Cross.

War products, such as knit goods, bandages and other manufactures, were turned out in numbers, with material supplied by the Red Cross or from similar sources, the items ranging from 1922 sweaters to 396 wristlets, and including many hospital supplies with the knit goods. The children of devastated Belgium were not forgotten, 414 garments having been turned out for them.

Salvage, given attention in its proper turn, resulted in the saving of tons of material that would otherwise have gone to waste and netted the Red Cross \$50 in the first month the plan was in operation, with constantly increasing returns for each succeeding month.

In the department of war finance, the teachers subscribed \$610,000 and the students the balance of the total subscription of \$1,178,150 made to the second Liberty Loan, while a sum exceeding \$60,000 was subscribed through the schools to the first

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loan, although no organized campaign was conducted at that time. The thrift stamp campaign, however, was the best received of all financial efforts, according to the report, as more than \$28,000 worth of stamps were sold in the first month of the campaign, and the sales, it is reported, are continuing in increasing volume.

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